

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 06511 220918Z
ACTION AF-10

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STATE FOR AF/P

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE MIDDLE EAST

1. A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY IN KINSHASA'S DAILY "ELIMA" JUNE 20 WARNS OF A POSSIBLE RIFT BETWEEN PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION LEADER ARAFAT AND PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS AS THE GAP WIDENS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION. THIS GAP WAS MOST RECENTLY ILLUSTRATED BY THE MURDER OF A PLO OFFICIAL IN KUWEIT. JOURNALIST KAKINDA MBWENDE BELIEVES THAT SEVERAL POINTS ARE CAUSING THE EXTREMISTS TO REJECT ARAFAT'S "MODERATE" POSITION: "MR. ARAFAT'S HESITATION IN JOINING THE ARAB REJECTION FRONT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL, HIS OFFER TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND HIS PASSIVENESS AT A TIME WHEN CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN ARE TAKING OVER THE CONTROL OF SOME OF THE AREAS LEFT VACANT BY WITHDRAWN ISRAELI TROOPS."

2. MR. KAKINDA POINTS OUT THAT ARAFAT'S LONG PRESENCE ON THE POLITICAL SCENE HAS ENABLED HIM TO GAIN VALUABLE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND LED HIM TO BECOME REALISTIC ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, WHILE ADDING: "ARAFAT IS WELL AWARE THAT THE
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PLO'S MILITARY FORCES ALONE CANNOT DEFEAT ISRAEL, WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S., AND HE KNOWS THAT PALESTINIAN MILITARY RAIDS AGAINST ISRAEL HAVE BEEN ISOLATING THE PALESTINIANS".

3. COMMENTATOR KAKINDA ENDS EDITORIAL BY CONCLUDING THAT THERE ARE STILL "SOME GOOD REASONS", HOWEVER, "FOR THE EXTREMISTS'

CONTINUING TOLERANCE OF MR. ARAFAT'S ATTITUDE: HIS CREDIBILITY
APPARENTLY STILL HOLDS, HIS IDEAS ARE NOT SO COMPROMISING,
AND THAT IS WHY THE EXTREMISTS HAVE REFRAINED FROM ATTACKING
ARAFAT PERSONALLY". ITEM
COHEN

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